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University for Peace

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Khalid Mohammed Osman **Ali** (Sudan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "University for Peace" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item and held a general debate on it at its 7th meeting, on 12 October 2009 (see A/C.4/64/SR.7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/281).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 12 October, the Rector of the University for Peace made a statement (see A/C.4/64/SR.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/64/L.6

5. At the 7th meeting, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "University for Peace" (A/C.4/64/L.6). Subsequently, Greece, Madagascar, the Netherlands and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

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6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Costa Rica orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "Trust Fund for Peace to receive voluntary contributions" were replaced by the words "Trust Fund for Peace consisting of voluntary contributions";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the words "an existing trust fund" were replaced by the words "the existing Trust Fund for Peace".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/64/L.6, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/108 of 14 December 2006, in which it recalled that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, it approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Noting that as the University approaches its thirtieth anniversary year, it continues to experience extraordinary growth and development in the exercise of the mandate given to it by the General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the vigorous actions taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the encouragement and support of the Government of Costa Rica, to revitalize the University,[1]

Recognizing the extraordinary progress the University has made in developing and carrying out programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security and in expanding its educational, training and research programmes to Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean,

Noting that the University has become a recognized leader in education, training and research on issues related to peace and conflict and that it is focusing its efforts on strengthening the three main components of its activities, namely, face-to-face teaching and research, expanding its presence and programmes in all regions of the world and distance learning to reach students who cannot come to its campus,

Noting also that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts,

Noting further that in 1991 the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, established the Trust Fund for Peace consisting of voluntary contributions in order to provide the University with the means necessary to extend its sphere of activity to the whole world, taking full

[1] See A/54/312.

advantage of its potential capacity for education, research and support of the United Nations and to carry out its mandate of promoting peace in the world,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal co-existence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among peoples irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/108, outlining the extraordinary progress made by the University for Peace in building exemplary programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security;[2]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the important mandate given to the University and its potential role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to consider ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the University;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue using the services of the University as part of his conflict-resolution and peacebuilding efforts through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[3]

4. *Invites* the University to further strengthen and broaden the outreach of its programmes and activities for cooperation with and capacity-building for Member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

5. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[4] thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider either reviving the existing Trust Fund for Peace or alternatively establishing a new trust fund for peace to facilitate receipt of voluntary contributions for the University;

7. *Encourages* Member States, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and interested individuals to contribute to the programmes, the trust fund, when established for the University, or the core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "University for Peace", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the work of the University.

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[2] A/64/281.

[3] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1223, No. 19735.